

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Bulganin, Nikolai Alexandrovich

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO

DATE DISTR. 7 Aug 1953
25X1

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1
REPORT NO.

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1. Bulganin advanced very rapidly. In 1941 he was appointed a member of the War Council in charge of the Moscow front. As a political commissar, he participated in the defense of Moscow together with Marshal Zhukov. In 1942 he was promoted to major-general and in this capacity moved to Poland with the Moscow front and Marshal Zhukov. After the liberation of Poland, he was made a Soviet plenipotentiary representative there. In 1946 he received the rank of Marshal and was made deputy minister of the Armed Forces. Later on he became Minister of War and in 1949 was made a full member of the Politburo in charge of all military affairs. At present he is in charge of Special Committee No. 1 of the Council of Ministers. This supervises all weapon developments with the exception of atomic energy.
2. He is probably the most educated and certainly the smartest member of the Presidium, perhaps second to Malenkov. He is extremely ambitious and the only member of the group Stalin considers really smart. He is very stern, abrupt, and tigerish.

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4. Not only his subordinates, but ministers and marshals are afraid of Bulganin. He is an educated and cultured man, whose reasoning as a statesman is dynamic. He has organizational impetus and the indestructible will to achieve the set purpose. Unfortunately, however, he is the equal of Molotov as regards to stubbornness, harshness of morals, pitilessness, imperialist psychology, devotion to the idea of yet greater and greater territorial expansion, indifference to the fate of non-Russian peoples, and hatred for any form of dissension. A co-partnership of these two as chief dictators would bring the final turn of the dictatorial screw, even more racial Russomania, the completion of the replacement of revolutionary ideals by the bayonet, tank, and bomber, the promotion of the MVD-MGB to the criterion of highest democracy, the dashing of the last hopes of nations who have fallen under Soviet rule of achieving national independence, and the final substitution of revolutionary internationalism by Russian great-power nationalism.
5. Bulganin is the only member of the aggressive imperialist part of the Politburo to enjoy the sincere respect of Stalin, who regards him as a dictator of statesmanlike calibre. In Stalin's "political testament" there will probably be much that is flattering about Bulganin, but Stalin is unlikely to recommend him as leader No 1, knowing that Beria and Mikoyan would never agree to this.

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